

# A Look at Maryland Agriculture



## Maryland

**Capital:** Annapolis

**Population:** 5,296,000

**Founded:** Maryland Charter granted in 1632,  
became a state on April 28, 1788 (7<sup>th</sup> state)

**State Bird:** Baltimore Oriole

**State Tree:** White Oak

**State Flower:** Back Eyed Susan

**State Crustacean:** Blue Crab

**Number of Districts:** 23 Counties plus Baltimore City

**Largest City:** Baltimore **Population:** 651,000



## Soil

- Sassafras series consisting of very deep, fine-loamy, siliceous, semiactive, well drained, moderately permeable soils formed in sandy marine and old alluvial sediments of the Coastal Plain.

- These soils are categorized as prime farmland and best suited to construction, on-site effluent disposal, and recreational development.

## Climate



- The mean annual air temperature is 45°F-48°F, mean annual precipitation 35"-50" and frost free period 160-250 days.

## General



- Maryland agriculture is the state's largest commercial industry.
- The Maryland agricultural industry contributes more than \$17 billion in revenue annually.
- Agriculture employs 350,000 Marylanders.
- 14% of the state's workforce are involved in Maryland's food and fiber sector:

50% wholesaling & retailing  
20% farm production  
15% marketing & processing  
12% agribusiness 3% farm supply

## Crops



- 40% of Maryland's land is in agriculture – over 2 million acres.
- The average size of a farm is only 178 acres, with a value of \$3,176 per acre.
- Extensive research and work is done by farmers to implement best management practices that protect our land while providing the food and fiber products necessary for our existence.

## Animals



- Known as "America in Miniature", Maryland agriculture is as diverse as that of the nation.
- As the state has grown in population, traditional dairy, grain and livestock production, while still active, have given way to products more directly related to consumers.
- Poultry, nursery and turf production, seafood, dairy, racing and pleasure horse industries now dominate Maryland agriculture.



**Maryland Agriculture in the Classroom**  
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